



Rapunzel and the Enchanted Tower

Once upon a time, in a cozy little cottage by a great forest, there lived a kind woodcutter and his wife. They longed for a child and, one magical day, their wish was about to come true. Behind their house was a splendid garden, filled with the most beautiful flowers and herbs. But, oh, it was guarded by a high wall and belonged to a powerful enchantress!

One day, the woodcutter's wife saw a bed of rampion (rapunzel) from their little window. It looked so fresh and green that she yearned to taste it. Her craving grew stronger every day, but alas, the garden was forbidden.

Seeing his wife so pale and sad, the woodcutter bravely decided to fetch her some rampion. Under the cover of twilight, he climbed the wall into the enchantress's garden and quickly gathered the rampion. His wife was overjoyed and made a delicious salad. But her craving returned, stronger than before!

Again, the woodcutter ventured into the garden but this time, the enchantress caught him! "How dare you steal my rampion?" she exclaimed. Trembling, the woodcutter explained about his wife's craving. Surprisingly, the enchantress softened. "Take as much rampion as you wish," she said, "but on one condition - you must give me the child your wife will bear." The woodcutter, in his fear, agreed.

When their daughter was born, she was as radiant as the sun. The enchantress named her Rapunzel and took her away. Rapunzel grew into a beautiful child with hair as fine as spun gold. At twelve, the enchantress locked her in a tower in the forest. It had no door, only a window on top.

Whenever the enchantress visited, she called, "Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your hair to me." Rapunzel would let down her golden hair, and the enchantress would climb up.

Years passed, and a prince, riding through the forest, heard Rapunzel's enchanting singing. He found the tower but no way to enter. Secretly, he watched the enchantress and learned the magic words.

One evening, he called out, "Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your hair." To Rapunzel's surprise, it was the prince who climbed up. They quickly became friends, and soon, Rapunzel agreed to marry him. They planned her escape, and each night he brought her silk to weave a ladder.

But one day, Rapunzel accidentally revealed the prince's visits to the enchantress. In anger, the enchantress cut off Rapunzel's hair and banished her to a desert.

That night, when the prince came, the enchantress let down the cut hair. Up climbed the prince, only to find the wicked enchantress! In his despair, he leapt from the tower and was blinded by thorns.

Meanwhile, Rapunzel gave birth to twins in the desert. One day, the blind prince, wandering the forest, heard her singing. Overjoyed, they reunited, and Rapunzel's tears of joy healed his eyes.

The prince led Rapunzel and their children to his kingdom, where they were warmly welcomed. They lived happily ever after, their love shining brighter than the most magical garden.